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United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
 WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

October 4, 1983

The Editor
 Newsweek
 444 Madison Avenue
 New York, New York 10022

Dear Sir:

Your article titled "The Secret Warriors" (Newsweek, October 10, 1983) is a terrible example of "shoot from the hip" journalism.

In your diatribe on covert action you state that the CIA is providing "training, arms and financial assistance" to military forces in Angola. If so, this action would violate a 1976 law prohibiting such assistance. Now, this charge by Newsweek is an absolute lie. In response to this charge, CIA spokesman, Dale Peterson, has stated "We obey the law, we do not violate the law."

Why didn't the Newsweek reporters ask the CIA ahead of time about this? Why didn't they ask somebody on our Committee about this? The answer is, if Newsweek had asked these people ahead of time, they would have refuted the charge and there would have been no story. It seems that Newsweek follows the old line that you never let the truth get in the way of a good story. Serious factual errors like this are scattered throughout this article. They call into question everything you write.

During the early 1970's, it appeared that Congress was going to hamstring the American intelligence with its public investigations of alleged abuses within the Intelligence Community. Today, seven years after the formation of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and its counterpart on the House side, I believe it is possible to say that the Intelligence Community is recovering very well. Bill Casey has played an important role in this recovery, and he should be commended for his efforts rather than criticized by a bunch of reporters who don't know what they're talking about.

Yes, it is true that the CIA is now "fighting to keep tons of deadly drugs from coming into the United States each year," and the CIA is battling "to keep scores of critical high-tech advances from